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Baucau incident, 5 October 1992

According to ABRI, an incident occurred in Baucau on 5 October when members of the guerrilla forces attacked Indonesian troops; one guerrilla was killed. The incident has been reported in the Indonesian press but we in London have not seen any clippings.

However, the true facts are as follows:

The incident started with a fight between members of ABRI, apparently over a woman. One (or several) members of ABRI were killed in the brawl. The brawl occurred late in the evening at around 9 pm, outside the office of the Baucau Bupati, as an exhibition on development [illegible] close.

To cover up the reason for their own casualties, ABRI turned on some Timorese who had been attending the exhibition and seriously injured Dominggus Aikarak. Aikarak's brother, Saturnino de Costa Belo, is one of the 8 Timorese who was tried in Dili earlier this year; he was sentenced to nine years. [It is not clear to me how they managed to pick on Dominggus, whether deliberately because of his brother or because he happened to be there.]

Having been badly injured, Aikarak made his way to the General Hospital in Baucau. A doctor at the hospital immediately began to treat his wounds but troops arrived at the hospital at around 11 pm, demanding that Dominggus be handed over. The doctor argued with the soldiers, saying that Dominggus needed urgent treatment, but the soldiers said he was a guerrilla and must be handed over to the army. The doctor had no option but to hand him over. Outside the hospital at 11 pm, Dominggus was severely beaten and died on the spot.

The next day, the army informed the chief of the village where Dominggus lives, Desa Kaibadak (Baucau), that he had been killed during an attack launched against the army by the guerrillas.

Later that day, the body of Dominggus was taken to the village and the village head was told to arrange for his burial, but he and the other villagers refused to do so, saying that they did not accept the account they had been given of his death. So the soldiers took the body away and buried him themselves.

At 11 pm that night (6 October), a convoy of ten army vehicles drove into the village and rounded up the village head and all the inhabitants - men, women and children. They were all driven off to an unknown destination. Since then, some have returned to the village, though the village head, members of Dominggus' family and some others have not yet returned home and their whereabouts are not known.

*[The source of this information is someone who left Baucau on 15 October who says that the position was as described above when he left. The information was conveyed to London by phone from another place (not Jakarta) in Indonesia.]*